

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /118 W

----- 065082

R 301440 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7610

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3517

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, JA

SUBJ: OHIRA DISCUSSES ASIAN SECURITY IN PRAVDA INTERVIEW

1. PROMINENT ARTICLE IN PRAVDA MARCH 30 BY TWO TOKYO CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBES IN GLOWING TERMS JAPANESE REACTION TO BREZHNEV REPLY TO TANAKA, INCLUDING FIRST MENTION OF FACT THAT VREZHNEV MESSAGE CONTAINED INVITATION FOR JAPANESE PRIMIN VISIT TO USSR. CENTERPIECE OF ARTICLE IS INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN OHIRA, WHO COMES OUT STRONGLY FOR SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ASIAN AFFAIRS. IN SERIES OF COMMENTS WHICH MUST BE MUSIC TO SOVIET EARS, OHIRA SAYS THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO " SYSTEM OF SECURITY IN ASIA," NOTING THAT SOVIETS THINKING ABOUT SUCH SYSTEM. CAUTIONING THAT CONTENTS OF SYSTEM NOT YET CLEAR AND EVERY ASIAN COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN CONCEPT, OHIRA EXPRESSES JAPANESE WILLINGNESS " CARRY ON FRANK EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WITH COUNTRIES HAVING GENERAL INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC." HE GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTION CAN BE ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD.

2. COMMENT: OHIRA'S BOW IN THE DIRECTION OF SOVIET CONCEPT OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, COMING LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER ENDORSEMENT IN USSR- IRAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WILL GIVE ADDITIONAL RESPECTABILITY TO THE STILL VAGUE SOVIET CONCEPT. SOVIETS CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT THIS DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR
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CONVERSATIONS WITH ASIAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES AND DIPLOMATS.
DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW03517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730344/aaaainvu.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EAP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980114
Subject: OHIRA DISCUSSES ASIAN SECURITY IN PRAVDA INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, HK, JA, RS
To: EA
HONG KONG
SECSTATE WASHDC
TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005